

## Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 SY-04 A-01 OPR-01 /083 W

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R 081523Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3044

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJ: FNLA ANGLES FOR POLICE ROLE IN LUANDA

REF: LUANDA 951

1. ON TWO OCCASIONS SINCE THE START OF THE RECENT WAVE OF CIVIL DISTURBANCE IN LUANDA (REFTTEL) FNLA'S SENIOR MAN HERE, "MINISTER OF INFORMATION" HENDRICK VAAL NETO, HAS SUGGESTED PUBLICLY THAT THE FRONT'S SOLDIERS BROUGHT IN TO POLICE THE CITY A LA FRELIMO IN LOURENCO MARQUES. VAAL NETO HAS OFFERED TO SUPPLY 10,000 ARMED "MILITANTS" WITHIN 24 HOURS. ON BOTH OCCASIONS VAAL NETO DENIED ANY FNLA RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RECENT VIOLENCE. BY CONTRAST, MPLA SPOKESMAN, HERMANIO ESCORCIO, HAS PLACED RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTAINING ORDER SQUARELY ON THE PORTUGUESE ARMY, ARGUING THAT PORTUGAL IS STILL THE SOVEREIGN POWER IN ANGOLA.

2. BECAUSE FNLA HAS MORE ARMED MEN READILY AVAILABLE (IN ZAIRE AND IN THE DEMBOS) THAN DOES MPLA BUT MUCH LESS POPULAR SUPPORT IN LUANDA, A POLICE ROLE WOULD BE OF GREAT AND POSSIBLY DECISIVE ADVANTAGE TO FNLA. FOR THAT REASON ALONE THE IDEA IS UNACCEPTABLE TO PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES AND AFM OFFICERS, MAY OF WHOM ARE

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PRO-MPLA.

3. AS LONG AS THE PORTUGUESE ARMY HAS THE ABILITY AND WILL TO CONTROL THE CITY IT IS UNLIKELY TO ACCEPT AN ARMED POLICE ROLE BY ANY ONE (OR MORE THAN ONE) - LIBERATION GROUP. HOWEVER, IF THE ARMY BREAKS, CONTROL OF LUANDA COULD GO TO THE GROUP WITH THE MOST AVAILABLE MEN AND THE FASTEST MEANS TO GET THEM HERE. THAT WOULD PROBABLY BE FNLA, PARTICULARLY IF ZAIRE OFFERS AIRLIFT CAPABILITY. SUCH A POWER GRAB BY FNLA COULD BE PLAUSIBLY CAST AS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND SAVE LIVES, BUT COULD WELL RESULT IN A BLOODBATH IN LUANDA.

4. IN HIS SECOND INTERVIEW PROPOSING AN FNLA POLICE FORCE VAAL NETO ASSERTED THAT FNLA HAS NEVER RECEIVED AMERICAN AID. ALTHOUGH A MINOR PART OF HIS STATEMENT, THE DISAVOWAL WAS HEADLINED.  
PORTER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
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